

Western Gateway Gazette

Northern Berkshire Business and Professional Women

Lucy A. Milette, editor. Elizabeth Manns, copyist/production.

June, 2008



A message from your president...

Dear Members:

June is here and with it unbelievable heat, but promises of a glorious summer, filled with family picnics, vacations and fun. Another NBBPW year has ended and a new one begins... As this month brings warmer weather and fond memories of the year past, it also means a change (though not by much!!) from one set of officers to another for our local. I would like to thank my 2007-2008 team on a highly successful year. Everyone did a fantastic job and I appreciate all of you. I would like to welcome Dorothy Ransford (who graciously moves up from 2nd Vice President to first Vice President) as the new Program Director, I know that she will do a fine job, and Francine LaJoie (2nd Vice President) who will bring a new perspective to the board. I thank Pauline Davis (Secretary) for agreeing to a third term, I know how valuable her experience is. I look forward to Kristen Wittig, our newest member's installation as treasurer. She is stepping into unfamiliar territory and I thank her for her spirit and wish her success. I consider myself blessed that Elizabeth Manns

and Lucy Milette will, once again be producing our monthly newsletter. Each brings her own strengths and talents to the executive committee and I look forward to an outstanding year with all of them.

I continue in my desire to increase our membership. BPW/USA is in the process of changing many policies, by-laws and even the blueprint of BPW. With severely declining membership we are at a risk of losing our organization as we know it. BPW/USA has their national meeting in July in Atlanta, Georgia. I am again unable to attend this year, but I know that our state is well represented. We wish our Young Careerist Dawn Shrade good luck as she enters her competition there. After Nationals, past local president Liz Manns, the current State Vice-President, will enlighten us of any sweeping changes and how they will impact us. I want to keep our local strong and vibrant. I hope this year to bring a sense of unity to our local, as well as more awareness of what BPW is all about. We need to feel a joining of minds with BPW members not only in our own locals or Districts, but to the State and National levels also.

Our goal of increasing the club's visibility within the local community remains the same with NBBPW participating in community events that will be happening over the summer months. This includes the Polka Grounds Flea/Tag sale this month, Hi Jinks night in Adams in July and the Downtown Celebration in North Adams in August. Our participation in these events last year was a big success, but again will depend on volunteers to man the tables. Keeping

ourselves visible will help strengthen and promote BPW, and draw in new members. If any of you have additional ideas, I certainly welcome them all. At the June 25th meeting, I will be passing out sign-up sheets for each of these events, so if you can spare an hour or two for one or both of these events, please put your name down. Also, at the June meeting, our new 1st Vice President, Dorothy will be handing out hostess sign-up sheets, and idea sheets for meetings as well. Your ideas and help are really appreciated.

As noted at our May meeting, installation of officers will be done at the June 25th meeting. Laura Bauver will do the installations and Rosemary Roper, our most recent past state president will be a guest speaker. Remember to wear your poodle skirts!! For those who cannot attend, I hope you have a great summer!!!

Paulette Remillard, President



WISE WORDS....

“A happy woman is one who has no cares at all; a cheerful woman is one who has cares but doesn't let them get her down.”

Beverly Sills

June Meeting

Date: June 25, 2008

Location: Williams Inn
Program: Installation of Officers with
Laura Bauver

Menu:
Garden Salad

Choice of:

- 1. Roast Strip Loin of Beef**
- 2. Baked Scrod with Crumb Topping**
- 3. Grilled Vegetables over Creamy Polenta**

Dessert: Fresh Berries atop a Light
Sponge Cake

Coffee, Tea

Cost: \$20.00

For Reservations call:

Nancy Lescarbeau 413-663-6083
Sylvia Proud 802-823-5535

Please remember: Reservations are due by the Friday before the meeting. Also, you are responsible for reservations made and not honored. We must pay for meals ordered.

Networking – 6:00

Meeting opens – 6:30

Dinner – 6:45

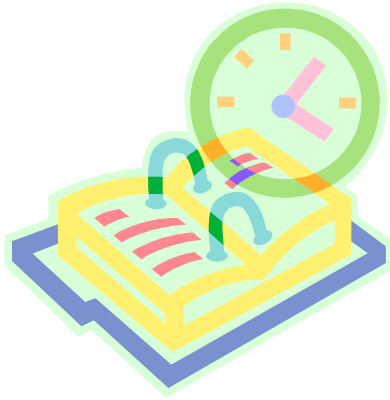
Guests are welcome!

IMPORTANT WEBSITES!!

www.bpw/usa.org

www.bpw/ma.org

www.northernberkshirebpw.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

June 21 1st Day of Summer
June 25 – NBBPW Meeting
July 4th – Independence Day
July 23-26 – BPW/USA National Convention, Atlanta



Birthdays

June, July & August
Nancy Lescarbeau – 7/5
Sylvia Proud – 7/7
Dorothy Ransford – 7/12
Allyn Basel – 7/16
Patti Troumpe – 7/23
Mary Michel – 7/27
Deborah Felix – 7/28
Paulette Remillard 8/29

Of Interest.....

Single Women Voters Are Overlooked in 2008 Elections

In April 2008, Women's Voices, Women Vote and the Center for American Progress Action Fund released a study on single women voters. The study, [Overlooked So Far: The Nation's Unmarried Women in 2008](#), found that unmarried women are a fast-growing demographic that is increasingly focused on politics. These single, divorced, and widowed women compose 26 percent of the electorate. A few facts from the study:

- **Economically Vulnerable** - More than 40 percent of unmarried women have household incomes of less than \$30,000 a year. That's much worse than married women and married men, and worse than unmarried men.
- **Work Pays Them Less** - Unmarried women make less than others for the same work, and earn only 56 cents to every dollar a married man earns.
- **Responsible for Children** - The responsibility for taking care of children often falls on unmarried women: There are 12.2 million single-parent families in America, and more than 10 million are headed by single mothers.
- **Missing Health Care** - Unmarried women are more likely than other Americans to have no health insurance. They were twice as likely to be unable to afford medical care in the past year as women who were married.
- **They Rely on Social Security** - More than 25 percent of unmarried women rely on Social Security as their only source of income. *BPW/USA*